

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 634

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION relative to The Volunteer State.

WHEREAS, although Tennessee has been blessed with several nicknames over the past two centuries, none has been more popular or more enduring than "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, this moniker originated during the War of 1812 when thousands of Tennesseans bravely enlisted in response to Governor William Blount's call for volunteers, with many of them serving valiantly under General Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, this reputation was solidified during the Mexican War when Governor Aaron Brown issued a call in May 1846 requesting 2,800 volunteers for military service and 30,000 courageous Tennesseans responded; and

WHEREAS, this proud tradition of selflessly serving one's country has been continued throughout the years by Tennesseans who have volunteered for the United States armed forces during times of both war and peace; and

WHEREAS, in 1897, the 50th General Assembly adopted the first official flag for the State of Tennessee and provided that the words "The Volunteer State" be placed diagonally on such flag; and

WHEREAS, the current design of the Tennessee state flag was adopted in 1905, and the nickname disappeared from the state flag, but not from common usage; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, the 99th General Assembly required that the words "The Volunteer State" be included on all new highway signs welcoming visitors to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, "The Volunteers" has served as the nickname and mascot for the flagship school of the University of Tennessee system, namely the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, since 1905; and

WHEREAS, through these distinguished and heartfelt traditions, our fellow Americans and people from across the globe have come to identify Tennesseans as Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, considering that The Volunteer State has been in usage for two centuries, it is indeed surprising that the nickname has never been officially adopted by the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is now time to rectify this glaring oversight and make official the name Tennesseans have proudly used in reference to themselves for many generations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that "The Volunteer State" is hereby designated the official nickname of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that "The Volunteer State" should be retained and preserved as the official nickname of the State of Tennessee in perpetuity.